

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4757  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003  
ERADICATION OF DISEASES  
A. KRISHNASWAMY

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the ICMR had successfully completed its task in identifying and eradicating diseases like TB, SMALLPOX, LEPROSY, POLIO etc.; and

(b) if not, the time by which the task is expected to be completed?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) ICMR only undertakes research studies for containing and treating diseases. For the control/eradication of the diseases like TB, Leprosy, and Polio, the Government of India is operating National Health Programmes namely National TB Control Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme and the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme.

Polio Eradication Programme is implemented through States/UTs. Well established surveillance system meeting the international standards are functioning in all the States/UTs to identify of polio cases and areas of polio virus transmission. The national goal is to eradicate polio from the country and obtain international polio free certification by 2005.

Under the TB Programme, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), based on WHO recommended DOTS strategy was launched in the country in 1997 in a phased manner. Till date more than 600 million population has been covered under the revised strategy and it is envisaged that the whole country will be covered under RNTCP by 2005. At present, no goal has been set for eradication of TB.

SMALLPOX has already been eradicated from the country in 1977.

For the elimination of Leprosy, at present the second phase of the National Leprosy Elimination Project is in operation with effect from 2001-'02 and is ending in March, 2004. It is expected to achieve leprosy elimination at national level i.e. of prevalence rate of less than 1 patient per 10,000 population by 2005.